

Madam Speaker, our plan is a balanced approach. More spending cuts and modest revenue increases. Now is not the time for partisan politics. With the future of our economy hanging in the balance, we cannot afford inaction.

#### SEQUESTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD) for 1 minute.

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Today, I urge all of my colleagues to join together to avert the automatic trigger cuts brought forth by the sequester that are scheduled to begin in 2 days. These cuts will hurt small businesses, the military, seniors, and our children.

In California, it is estimated that more than 15,000 children will not receive vaccinations for diseases such as measles, whooping cough, and influenza—all because of these automatic trigger cuts. This is unacceptable. In addition, special education services for children with disabilities will see cuts, while over 8,200 low-income children in California will not receive critical early education from Head Start. Children deserve better from their Members of Congress.

That is why we need a balanced approach to replace sequestration, which includes revenues and spending cuts, thereby ensuring the most vulnerable are not burdened.

I, therefore, ask unanimous consent to bring forth H.R. 699 to provide balanced deficit reduction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, the gentlewoman's request cannot be entertained.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Ronald Derrick, American Legion, Rigby, Idaho, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for this day. Grant us Your presence.

We stand in a room representing power and authority given by Your

hand. Keep us mindful that one day we shall stand in a greater room and give an accounting of the decisions made this day.

Therefore, I pray with words that have been spoken down through the ages that You, O Lord, would grant to these leaders of our Nation health, peace, concord, and stability, that they may administer the government without failure.

Direct their counsel according to that which is good and well-pleasing in Your sight; and may it be said of them that they performed the duties of their office faithfully and impartially.

Bless each individual present here today, for by blessing the individual, You have blessed this Nation.

To You be the glory. In Your most holy Name I pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSKAM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND RONALD DERRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce Chaplain Ronald Derrick for today's invocation.

Chaplain Derrick serves as the national chaplain of the American Legion. He is a U.S. Army veteran and a 40-year member of the American Legion, serving 18 years with Post 95 in

Driggs, Idaho, and the subsequent 22 years in Post 20 in his current home of Rigby, Idaho.

Mr. Derrick's Legion duties have included terms as post commander, district commander, and Department of Idaho vice commander. For the past 6 years, he has acted as the Department of Idaho's chaplain.

Mr. Derrick is a retired printer and mail clerk, a former county coroner, Driggs Chamber of Commerce president, and EMT and firefighter. Recognizing this latter service, the American Legion named Mr. Derrick Idaho's Firefighter of the Year in 1987.

Mr. Derrick was ordained into the ministry in 1979 through the Solid Rock Pentecostal Church and continues to serve in various aspects of ministry. Mr. Derrick and his wife of 45 years, Bird, have two sons, a daughter, and nine grandchildren.

I would like to welcome Chaplain Derrick and thank him for his dedication and outstanding service to God and country.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. In just 2 days, President Obama's devised plan of across-the-board spending cuts known as "sequester" will kick in. I voted for House legislation to replace the President's plan with smarter and more responsible cuts. Unfortunately, the President and his friends in the Senate ignored it.

Right now, America is over \$16 trillion in debt. That means every American owes more than \$52,000 each. Taxpayers all across this country know that Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

Enough is enough. Now is the time to work together to stop spending money we do not have. We need to give the American people what they want, need, and deserve. We must get our fiscal house in order by balancing our budget. It's almost too late. Let's act now.

#### RECOGNIZING FAITH-BASED LEADERS IN OHIO'S THIRD DISTRICT IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute African American faith-based leaders from Ohio's Third Congressional District. They are here as civil